

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in this application. All of the pending claims stand rejected. By this amendment, pending claims 1 and 3-10 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 16 and 17 are added. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,963,374 to Nakamura et al. ("Nakamura") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,847,388 to Anderson ("Anderson"). Claims 4, 5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakamura in view Anderson as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,967,680 to Kagle et al. ("Kagle").

As indicated above, claims 1 and 3-10 have been cancelled thereby rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

New claim 16 is directed to an image sensing apparatus comprising, *inter alia*, "a memory which has a first area for temporally storing first RAW data obtained in a first image sensing operation of said image sensing device and a second area for temporally storing second RAW data obtained in a second image sensing operation next to the first image sensing operation of said image sensing device." In particular, claim 16 further recites that " wherein, in case said image sensing device outputs third RAW data obtained in a third image sensing operation next to the second image sensing operation, said control device controls so that, said image processing device processes a color space conversion for the first RAW data readout from said first area in

accordance with start of reading the second RAW data from the image sensing element in the second image sensing operation, the integral processing for the second RAW data by said white balance integration device and the color space conversion for first RAW data by said image processing device processes are performed in parallel during reading of the second RAW data from the image sensing element, and said display device displays the object image after the color space conversion processing for the first RAW data and the integral processing for the second RAW data, and said white balance calculation device calculates the white balance coefficient while said display device displays the object image after the parallel processing, and said memory stores the third RAW data in the first area in which the first RAW data after processing of the first RAW data by said image processing device is finished." Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification as originally filed, including, e.g., page 13, line 3, through page 24, line 1 along with Figs. 1-3 of the specification as originally filed.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner indicates, *inter alia*, that "However, Nakamura et al. do not explicitly teach that said image processing device processes the color space conversion for second image data in accordance with the start of reading of the first image data from the image sensing element. Nakamura et al. do not explicitly teach that integral processing of the first image data and the color space conversion of the second image data are performed in parallel." (emphasis in the original)

The Examiner cites Anderson as teaching a "ping-pong buffers" to read out raw image data from the image sensor concurrent with the processing color space conversion of previous image data for the benefit of improving the display speed of the digital camera and preventing the tearing of the image on the display. The Examiner cites, *inter alia*, col. 5, line 65 through col. 6, line 3 of Anderson for the basis of this rejection. [page 4-6 of the Office Action]

Applicant notes that Nakamura discloses performing RAW DATA WRITING 2 during READOUT 2, however, it does not perform IMAGE PROCESSING 1 during READOUT 2 as shown, e.g., in Fig. 8. Therefore, Nakamura fails to teach a parallel processing as required by the present invention as featured in claim 16. Moreover, while the apparatus disclosed in Nakamura performs LIVE VIEW PROCESSING, JPEG COMPRESSION, and CARD WRITING during LIVE VIEW operation, it does not perform a white balance calculation, as required by the present invention.

Applicant further notes that Anderson discloses a so-called "parallel processing" as shown, e.g., Figs. 4A and 4B. As Applicant understands it, however, the apparatus disclosed in Anderson has input buffers for n pieces of RAW data that correspond to a number of input RAW data, and does not have a structure in which two areas are alternately used as required by the present invention. Furthermore, Anderson is silent in disclosing the kind of image processing performed during the live view operation, as required by the present invention.

Kagle is cited as disclosing a defect correction device but fails to teach the above indicated aspects of the present invention as featured in claims 16 and 17.

Accordingly, each of claims 16 and 17 is believed patentable over the cited references (i.e., Nakamura, Anderson and Kagle) for at least the reasons discussed above. For example, neither of the references shows or suggests, at least, "said memory stores the third RAW data in the first area in which the first RAW data after processing of the first RAW data by said image processing device is finished" as specifically recited in claim 16. Also, the cited references further fails to show or suggest that "said white balance calculation device calculates the white balance coefficient while said display device displays the object image after the parallel processing" as specifically recited in claim 16.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above (i.e., by canceling the pending claims). However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

Applicant believe that the application as amended including new claims is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

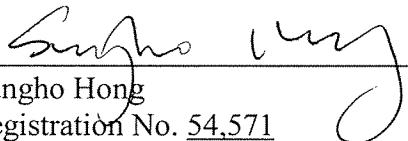
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5191). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 4, 2008

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AUTHORIZATION

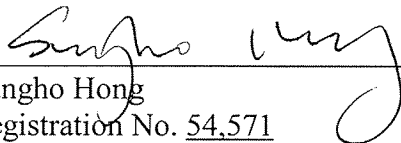
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